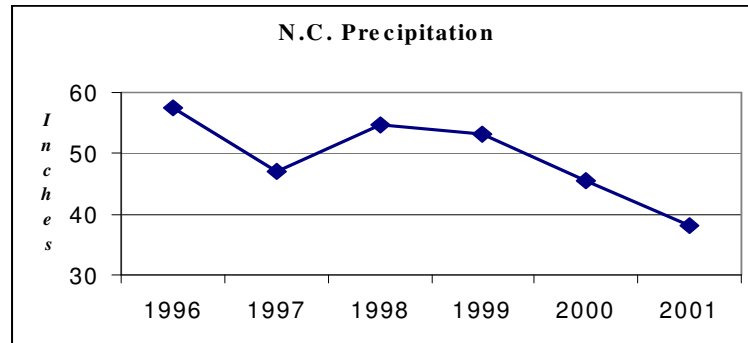


rationale is not appropriate from a BMP implementation standpoint, precipitation amounts for the 1996 – 2001 period were relatively low, which would corroborate this speculation, as shown in Figure 6.

Figure 6: Total Precipitation in North Carolina, 1996 – 2001 (see Appendix IV for data references)



Correctly installed bridgemats at stream or ditch crossings is a DFR-recommended BMP practice, regardless of the current or expected amount of water that exists for the duration of a forestry-related, site disturbing activity.

X It is inappropriate to think bridgemats are only needed for wet ground conditions. Bridgemats should be used even when no water is visible in the stream or channel.

Even during dry times with little or no water in a channel, using a bridge of some kind will protect the stream or ditch bank structure, thus preventing accelerated erosion during rain events that occur after the logging or forestry activity is complete. Also, the conditions of the stream or ditch bottom will be protected when using bridgemats by avoiding soil compaction and rutting which can result in degradation of water quality, and habitat quality for fish and aquatic organisms.



Figure 7: Properly installed wooden bridgemats in western North Carolina